

## THE NATION'S FUTURE TIED TO BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, balancing the Federal budget is a noble cause. It is one of the few issues of our era that demands our full attention. The reason is very simple: moving the Federal budget into balance is not, ultimately, a debate about numbers, programs, agencies or interest groups. It is a debate about the future of our country. It is about whether or not we will leave our children in utter bankruptcy or with the hope of a better tomorrow. Either we tame the deficit monster that is ravaging our capacity for economic survival, or the very concept of prosperity will, for most of our children, be little more than a wistful memory.

By the early 21st century—a few years from now—the entire Federal budget will be consumed by entitlement spending and interest on the national debt. This is the shocking conclusion of the President's own commission on entitlements. It demands change—now.

Republicans are committed to capping the growth of Federal spending and cutting waste in the Federal budget, not to meet an arbitrary deadline, but for the sake of our children and our country. That is our mission, Mr. President. We will accomplish it.

## AMERICA NEEDS A NATIONAL CLEAN AIR ACT

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, as this body meets today, the conferees are discussing the rescission bill a number of substantive changes in the Clean Air Act; first, to prevent EPA from imposing sanctions on States that violate the Clean Air Act, no matter how deliberate or egregious the violation; to eliminate the requirement that new highway projects funded with Federal monies must conform to the Clean Air Act by taking air quality considerations into account; and to eliminate the requirement that EPA give 100 percent credit to all State inspection and maintenance programs, no matter how deficient, how inadequate, or how patently empty those particular programs might be.

These are amendments which eliminate EPA's sanction authority, and effectively makes the Clean Air Act voluntary. If a State wants to opt out of the act and allow limitless pollution in that State, it is allowed to do so. This is fundamentally inconsistent with the position that the Congress has taken time after time for so many years, that we need a national Clean Air Act to

prevent and to protect our people against interstate pollution.

## WHERE IS THE DEMOCRAT PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET?

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I never cease to be amazed at the speed with which liberal Democrats are able to rattle off class warfare rhetoric. It is as if liberal Democrats get up every morning and drink a specially concocted bromide which enables them to spew forth class warfare epitaphs with machine-gun like rapidity.

The most recent example was yesterday when Republicans offered our plan to balance the Federal budget in 7 years.

But what was the response from the liberals?

Well, they just about tripped over themselves to get to the floor to denounce our plan as a devious plot to benefit the rich at the expense of children, the elderly, and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, the liberals are not fooling anyone. Even President Clinton's own Cabinet members admit that Medicare is going broke. And nobody denies the existence of the national debt.

But what have the liberal Democrats offered? Nothing but a few well-rehearsed class warfare epitaphs.

I only have one question for my friends on the other side. You know the problems we face—where is your plan? Where is it?

## DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF SENIORS OR THE POOR

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the new Republican majority has shown great courage and guts, as we heard from another speaker, to cut and balance the budget. They are balancing their budget by making significant cuts in Medicare, the cost of living for Social Security, education funds, and job training funds. That takes a lot of guts and courage to pick on the least fortunate of our society.

The Republican majority call their drastic budget cuts in Medicare slow growth. Either way, it is less money for the next 7 years than expected for the growth in senior citizens, so it is a cut, whether we call it that or not. Medicare is not a bank to be raided by the Republicans, just because they want to pay for a tax cut.

The Republican majority also changes the way the Consumer Price Index is calculated, ultimately cutting the COLA's for seniors. I thought our new leadership told us Social Security would be sacred.

I want everyone in Congress to know that Democrats want to work with Republicans, but we refuse to balance the budget on the backs of Medicare, on the backs of cost of living for seniors, or education funding, or the least fortunate of our society.

## REPUBLICANS WILL WORK TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDI- CARE

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, according to the President's Commission on Entitlements, in about a decade all Federal revenues will be consumed by entitlements and interest on the debt. At that point, the Federal Government will cease to exist as we know it: no defense, no law enforcement, no education, no anything outside of entitlements and debt service.

The fact is, there is a problem with Medicare. By the year 2002, the funds will be out completely. What could we do about that? We can work together, Republicans and Democrats together, to make sure that we help our seniors, to make sure that Medicare is sound and safe and protected.

The fact is, the Republicans do have a plan. We will be presenting it. We do expect to have the American people embrace it, because it is one that is sensitive to families, sensitive to our children, sensitive to senior citizens, and one that will provide the kind of health care that Americans have come to expect. The fact is, Republicans will lead the way to protect, preserve, and to protect Medicare, and to work with senior citizen organizations and their families to make sure that Medicare is protected. We guarantee that. We will work on it every day. So help me God, it will be accomplished.

## CLEAN WATER AMENDMENTS OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 140 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 961.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 961) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, with Mr. HOBSON (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 10, 1995, the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT] had been disposed of, and